



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: L.D. Baumgart et al. Examiner: 2124  
Serial No.: 09/557,633 Group Art Unit: T. A. Vu  
Filed: April 25, 2000 Docket No.: ST997054  
TITLE: EXTENDED ATTRIBUTE INFORMATION RETENTION FILE FORMAT  
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on September 17, 2003.

David W. Victor

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT SUBMITTED CONCURRENTLY WITH A  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is submitted concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in response to the Final Office Action dated June 17, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1-33 as anticipated (35 U.S.C. §102) and obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over prior art. Applicants have amended the claims and added new claims 34-39. Applicants submit that the pending claims 1-39 are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed herein and in condition for allowance.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10.